

I am writing to you today as a current satellite TV subscriber who would like to voice my support to the pending merger of EchoStar and Direct-TV. The combination of these two satellite providers will provide numerous benefits to consumers like me, including more choices in channels, programming, broadband and new television technologies.

By merging, the combined company will be a much stronger competitor to cable television and can offer more programming choices and, most importantly, all local TV channels in every market in the U.S. But just as exciting, the merger will bring the availability of affordable high-speed Internet service by satellite. I am really watching this one close as I would really like to see this happen. This will give me a choice for Internet access and will be especially advantageous to us in the rural areas as I will never be able to get Cable and not very likely to get DSL.

In the interest of improving our access to competitive television and Internet service, I urge you to lend your support to this merger.